

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-24 are pending in the application. Claims 13-17 have been withdrawn from consideration based on a Restriction Requirement, but the Applicant reserves the right to further pursue these claims in a divisional or a continuation application. Accordingly, Claims 13-17 are cancelled herein. Claims 1-9, 11, 12 and 18-24 are rejected herein. More specifically, Claims 1-9, 11 and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S. C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,785,198 to Credle, Jr., (the "Credle patent"). Furthermore, Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Credle with the Examiner stating it would have been within the general skill of a worker in the art to select the material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

The Applicant's attorney would like to thank Examiner Ngo for the courtesy of a telephone interview on August 11, 2005, wherein the Credle reference was discussed in detail with respect to the present application. More specifically, the distinctions between the upward oriented shoulder of the present application and how it becomes disengaged from the closure ring during removal of the lid was discussed, and the Examiner indicated that the claims, if amended to identify these distinctions would be allowable. Accordingly, the independent Claims of the present application have been amended to distinguish the Applicant's invention over the Credle reference.

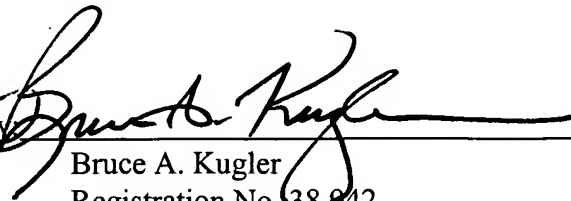
All pending claims are now believed in a condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due are respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Application No. 10/622,958

If there should be any other questions regarding the pending claims, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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